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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **SHIOJI, Masahiro**

Group Art Unit: 2615

Serial No.: 09/274,771

Examiner: Nhan T. Tran

Filed: March 24, 1999

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 8875

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
- EXPEDITED RESPONSE -
GROUP ART UNIT 2615

MAILSTOP AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 31, 2005

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 15, 2004, extended to April 15, 2005 by a one-month Petition for Extension of Time, entry of the following amendments and remarks, further examination, and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.